

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A rotating cutting device, comprising:

a handle and a blade,

said blade comprising a rotably operable blade further comprising a blade axle having two ends;

said handle comprising a first half and a second half pivotally connected to one another ~~by a housing axle~~, said first and second halves having an open position and a closed position, wherein said first half ~~has includes~~ a first axle retainer having a first opening bearing surface which receives one end of said blade axle and said second half ~~has includes~~ a second axle retainer having a second opening bearing surface which receives an opposite end of said blade axle, ~~wherein said first and second axle retainers are configured with substantially coincident axle bearing surfaces and wherein said first and second openings in said first and second axle retainers are not coincident when said handle is in the closed position.~~

2. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first and second halves comprise housings having substantially mirror images of one another, and wherein, in an axial plane, each housing further comprises an outer gripping border having opposing ends which are joined by a blade exposing border, and in a radial plane define a recess which accommodates said blade.

3. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said outer gripping border comprising an arc segment.
4. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 3, wherein said arc segment is about 150 to about 210 degrees.
5. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said arc segment is about 165 degrees.
6. (Currently Amended) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said first and second halves are pivotally connected by a pivot housing ~~axle~~ is located proximate to a corner defined by an intersection point between said gripping border and said blade exposing border.
7. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a housing halves locking mechanism.
8. (Currently Amended) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 7, wherein said housing halves locking mechanism further comprises a clasp on one lip on one of said first and second halves and a clasp on the other of said first and second halves.

9. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 7, wherein said housing halves locking mechanism further comprises a projection on one of said first and second halves and a detent on the other of said first and second halves.
10. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said blade has a removal facilitator.
11. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first half further comprises a border axis A-A passing through a center of said first axle bearing surface, wherein said first axle bearing surface further comprises a first segmented retainer, said first segmented retainer having a first opening for receipt of one end of said blade axle, said first opening having a central axis B-B, and wherein an angle α between said border axis A-A and said central axis B-B is about zero degrees.
12. (Original) A rotating cutting device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said second half further comprises a tangent axis T-T passing through a center of said second axle bearing surface, wherein said second axle bearing surface further comprises a second segmented retainer, said second segmented retainer having a second opening for receipt of an opposing end of said blade axle, said second opening having a second central axis B'-B' and wherein, an angle α' between said central axis B'-B' and said tangent line T-T is about zero degrees.
13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A rotating cutting device, comprising:
a handle and a blade,

said blade comprising a rotably operable blade further comprising
a blade axle having a first end and a second end;

said handle comprising a first half and a second half moveable
about a pivot between an open position and a closed position, wherein said
first half includes a first axle retainer having a first opening configured to
receive said first end of said blade axle and said second half includes a
second axle retainer having a second opening configured to receive said
second end of said axle when said first and second halves are moved from
said open position to said closed position, and wherein said first and
second openings in said first and second axle retainers are not coincident
when said handle is in said closed position.

- 15 (New) The device of claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and
second ends of said axle comprise an axle lock of a diameter greater than said
respective axle end and wherein said respective axle retainer is configured to
retain said respective axle end through interference with at least one of said axle
lock and said respective axle end.

- 16 (New) The device of claim 14, wherein said blade comprises an opening
to facilitate grasping of said blade by a user to overcome said interference fit to
remove said first axle end from said first axle retainer when said handle is in said
open position.

- 17 (New) The device of claim 14, wherein said second axle retainer is
configured to release said second axle end during movement of one of said first
and second halves from said closed position to said open position, and wherein

said first axle retainer is configured to removably retain said first axle end through an interference fit.

18 (New) The device of claim 16, wherein said interference fit is between said first axle retainer and an axle lock formed at said first end of said axle.

19 (New) The device of claim 14, wherein said second axle retainer is aligned with an arc centered about said pivot.

20 (New) The device of claim 14, wherein said first and second axle ends comprise respective first and second axle lock portions having a diameter greater than the rest of said axle and wherein said first and second axle retainers are configured to retain said respective axle lock portions so as to prevent axial movement of said axle.